

opinion

More than a symbol

The University library is more than a symbol of scholarship. It is the lifeblood of research for the social sciences and humanities.

We are the only institution that offers doctorates in the social sciences and humanities in the state.

Our library is in poor shape.

The students can't always get help, the paint is peeling, periodicals have been cut, the budget is not growing and the books are decaying due to an inadequate climate control system.

Though the library budget has not been allotted less dollars in the last few years, the library's funding problem stems from a real budgetary decrease throughout the 1970s when inflation and the poor exchange rate of the dollar (the University has the largest collection of foreign publications in the state) started eating away the services and collection.

And nothing was done to stop the withering of Oregon's only member of the 101 academic members in the Association of Research Libraries in the United States and Canada.

Last year the University library was rated 92nd by ARL in number of acquisitions.

We are improving a bit, however, the year before we were 99th out of the 101 — a rating increase of seven. Just an historical note: We added about half the number of books last year that we did in 1962. Roughly, the University acquired 60,000 volumes in 1962 and 30,000 in 1982.

Another notable indication of how we rate is the ratio of student to professional (librarians with master degrees) and professional to classified staff. By all measures the University is highly dependent on student work study employees. They are a cheap replacement to professional and classified staff.

The University library computerization is 1960s vintage.

Library-users know the library has poor ventilation and is over-heated. The books are literally baking.

The conglomerate edifice known as the University library is really three structures: the original building built in 1937 and two additions built in 1950 and 1966. Each has an air-handling system without climate control. The temperature cannot be finely adjusted to preserve books.

Perhaps the final testing of an academic library is the study service it provides. Yet, for undergraduates and graduate students in the social sciences and humanities — not to mention professors, the ambience of our library leaves much to be desired.

The library was last painted in 1966. The number of desks and tables is decreasing rapidly. Even with the present poor rate of book acquisitions there will be no desks left for students in 10 years.

Enough. So what can be done for our beleaguered library?

Well, some things are being done. For the first time, a special account of several thousand dollars is being used to buy duplicate reserve books. This small amount might help students actually get to read that over-sought reserve book.

Then there's the problem of space. Desks could be pushed closer to the poorly-designed let-in-no light windows. The ERIC Clearinghouse on Education Management housed on the first floor should be moved and the entire library returned to the library. This must be cheaper than building an extra wing.

A portion of the maintenance budget must be earmarked for the library. The plaster is falling on students in the downstairs eating room and the newspaper reading room.

Let's get some paint. The librarian says it takes about \$50,000 to paint a building that size. If the University can't afford a contractor, the ASUO, or some other student groups could organize a volunteer effort to paint the main rooms this summer.

The student government needs to direct lobbying attention to the state of the University library.

Just as the University has special fund-raisers for the Ducks or a new stadium, a private fund-raising drive just for the library needs to be undertaken. Programs such as the 1982 graduating class donations are just the icing. Our library needs capital to be competitive again.

The \$1 million allocation to state system libraries proposed in the governor's budget would be an obvious place to start soliciting money for the University library. Again, the state board needs to understand the importance of the University library over others in the state system.

The quality of our library is in serious question. And without a quality library we cannot be a quality university.

OK, MR. NIXON, THIS IS THE DIRECTOR UP IN THE BOOTH...

NOW, MR. PRESIDENT, FOR YOUR TV SHOW LET'S TRY LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THE LENS... OVER HERE...



THAT'S IT... OK, NOW LET'S TRY A SMILE... C'MON, A REAL SINCERE...

SMILE, OK, NOW LOOK BACK AT THE LENS... AT THE LENS...



DOWN A LITTLE... PERHAPS YOU COULD LEAN FORWARD JUST A BIT... JUST A BIT...



WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET!

WELL, WHAT THE HELL—JUST BE YOURSELF!

letters

Overcome

Regarding David Cree's Feb. 17 letter, "transients" — yes, I have looked around the campus and I am overcome with consternation. I vehemently agree that a "tragic injustice" has transgressed. The victims — the discarded transients.

Many so-called "transients" once enjoyed the social interaction of the TV room. There was always a warm, friendly person who had time to listen and share his thoughts.

I agree, Cree, that the TV room should be reinstated, but not as a release for marginal students, like yourself, to rationalize their classroom inadequacies as you suggest.

Bring back the TV room as a cultural forum for persons with alternative backgrounds to freely interact in an unstructured environment.

As you drive down the road of life, Cree — seeing the world with the sterile, empirical eyes of a physicist, the hope is that you collide head-on with destitution and have to rely on cruel, pseudo-erudite individuals like yourself.

Shawn Montoya
senior, political science

Ridiculous

This year's IFC, with the ridiculous brouhaha it has created, has done a fine job proving to the students what an egotistical and ignorant committee it has become. Last year I had the privilege to serve on the very same committee.

Within one week, I realized that the committee serves as a

stage for bureaucratic pretenders playing pseudo-government. However, we were able to get our work done without supplying the Emerald with a "Laverne and Shirley"/"As The World Turns" scenario.

The all-time classic episode this year has got to be Dianne Ritterband-Mason's gutless act of reversing her vote on the American Advertising Federation's budget after the program director had already left the room. Dianne, if you're going to be so wishy-washy, at least have the balls to stick to your decision once you've made it — and get a real name while you're at it.

My advice is that we take all the money that is allocated for the stipends of these seven power-hungry children and hire a computer programmer to write a program that would allocate our student fees to the various groups, based on the number of students the group actively reaches.

At least this way, if the committee still wants to continue its soap opera-like meetings, they can do it on their time and not our money.

But do keep covering the meetings, it's entertaining to read all the hoopla and start the day off with a laugh.

Robert Payne
junior, telecommunications

Senator policy

I appreciated your recent editorial criticizing Sen. Bob Packwood for his lack of support for the Nuclear Freeze. It appears, however, that something he said was misinterpreted. I believe his statement regarding "selling"

nuclear weapons to Europe was misunderstood.

The United States is not going to sell nuclear weapons to Europe. I suspect what Packwood was referring to was "selling" the idea of deployment to the European people.

In fact, unlike most NATO nuclear weapons in Europe, the European allies will have absolutely no control over the Cruise and Pershing II missiles. They will be under complete U.S. control. The decision to fire them will not, ultimately, be in the hands of the Europeans.

The logic of this policy is that the Europeans want the United States to be responsible for the nuclear attack on the Soviet Union, thereby ensuring a Soviet attack on the United States. This is a policy referred to as "coupling," wherein the defense of Western Europe is linked directly to the survival of the United States. This will ease the fear of Europeans about U.S. plans to wage "limited" nuclear war in Europe. It attempts to guarantee that any Soviet attack on NATO will result in world-wide holocaust.

This is the nature of the "security" provided by Packwood; to push the work to the brink of holocaust, but not over the edge.

If this policy fails to make you feel "secure," let Packwood know. Tell him to support the Nuclear Freeze, and to oppose deployment of Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe.

Tom Lynch
Citizens Action for Lasting Security

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